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ON PAGE *A10*

NEW YORK TIMES  
30 January 1986

# Anti-Sandinista Adviser Lists Aid Needs of Rebels

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 — A key adviser to the Nicaraguan rebels said today that they would use American military aid, if it is approved, to create secure supply lines inside Nicaragua and to acquire anti-aircraft weapons, long-range mortars and artillery.

John K. Singlaub, the retired major general who has assisted the anti-Sandinista rebels in making arms purchases and obtaining private financing, said the military strategy of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force and smaller rebel groups had been limited by "the fact that they don't have a secure line of supply." He said they had been able to mount only hit-and-run attacks.

Until the rebels are assured of aid to establish better supply lines, he said, they cannot move into urban areas of Nicaragua or take and hold territory.

General Singlaub, who is president of the United States Council for World Freedom, which assists anti-Communist guerrillas in eight countries, came to Washington for the annual conference of Conservative Political Action Committees. His visit coincided with the beginning of Administration efforts to win Congressional approval for up to \$100 million in new aid for the Nicaraguan rebels, often called contras. After a breakfast meeting with four journalists, he spent the day talking with members of Congress.

## Renewal Request Next Month

The United States provided military aid to the rebels through the Central Intelligence Agency until mid-1984, when Congress terminated the covert program. Last summer, however, Congress approved \$27 million in nonlethal, so-called humanitarian, aid for food, medical care and uniforms, and the Administration is expected to seek renewal of that, plus military aid, sometime next month.

Although a majority of members of Congress have become increasingly critical of the Sandinista Government in recent months, the Administration is uncertain how Congress will act on the military aid request. With that in mind, it has been trying to buttress its case by presenting what it says is new evidence of Sandinista support for guerrillas in El Salvador and of Cuban involvement in Nicaragua, coupled with efforts to show the rebels in a favorable light.

Three top rebel leaders met Tuesday with Secretary of State George P. Shultz and presented a set of "principles and objectives" for a provisional government with which to replace the Sandinista Government, in the event it could be overthrown. Although American officials do not regard a rebel victory as imminent, the move was designed to answer questions from potential supporters.

## No 'Return to Somocista Past'

"This is to reply to all the questions in Washington and Europe about what we are doing, to tell the world that we are not going to return to a Somocista past," Alfonso Robelo, one of the Nicaraguans, said as they left the meeting with Mr. Shultz.

Somocista is the term used to de-

scribe followers of the late President Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who was ousted in 1979 by an insurrection mounted by the Sandinistas and many other Nicaraguans, including Mr. Robelo and the two other signers of the rebel document of objectives, Adolfo Calero and Arturo Cruz.

The six-page document promises "representative democracy," through elections for a constituent assembly within eight months of the fall of the Sandinista Government and general elections within 18 months. It also gives the outlines of what the provisional government would do in political, economic, social and foreign policy. But the three men did not announce formation of a provisional government as such, saying they were delaying that to see if the Sandinistas would agree to opening a discussion with them as proposed by the Roman Catholic bishops of Nicaragua.

General Singlaub said that if the United States denied new aid to the anti-Sandinista forces, it could someday face the prospect of having to send large numbers of United States troops to destroy military bases in Nicaragua that, he predicted, would be used by the Soviet Union.

He contended that the military bases being built or expanded at Puerto Cabezas and El Bluff on Nicaragua's east coast, at Corinto on the Pacific, and the Punta Huete air base were too advanced for the needs of the Nicaraguan military and could only be intended for Soviet use.

If there is a war in Europe between NATO allies and the Soviet bloc countries, he said, the Soviet Union would seek to use the Nicaraguan bases and facilities in Cuba to block the sea lanes between American ports in the Gulf of Mexico and Europe.

A Pentagon official said General Singlaub's scenario coincided with Pentagon assumptions over the "long term." But the official said the immediate concern was that the Punta Huete base would be used to launch reconnaissance flights up the West Coast of the United States in the way that the Cuban base at San Antonio de los Baños is used for reconnaissance flights up the East Coast.

Discussing the needs of the rebels, General Singlaub said long-range mortars and artillery would be needed to hold off the Sandinista army if the rebels ever took control of a piece of territory. He said that was a major goal because it would enable the rebels to take delivery of supplies without dependence on a foreign country, such as Honduras, which is sensitive to criticism from the Sandinista Government.

The general said the rebels also needed more anti-tank weapons and better surface-to-air missiles for use against the Sandinistas' Soviet-designed attack helicopters. He said they now have Soviet-made RPG-7's anti-tank weapons and would like to acquire longer-range RPG-9's. In December, using a SAM-7 missile, the rebels claimed downing an MI-8 helicopter and damaging an MI-24.